

'THE REALLY GOOD LIFE'
(The Life of Christ Series)
Gospel of Luke

'The Countdown'

“10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1 **“Go!” or “Blast off!”** 10 seconds of suspense and then comes an exhilarating event to follow. When it comes to **the 10 Commandments of God**, the spiritual laws (1-4) are followed by moral laws (6-10). Twice these introductory laws were given, once on Mt. Sinai when the Israelites left Egypt (*Exodus 20:1-17*) and then again to the next generation of Israelites prior to entering the *'promised land'* of Canaan (*Deuteronomy 5:6-21*).

These 10 basic rules of God were the preamble to over 600 specific commands detailing the crimes and punishments to be exacted when God's Law was disobeyed. These laws weren't just restrictive, but it's better to see them as protective in keeping one in God's favor instead of coming under His chastisement for disobedience.

The 10 Commandments are best kept by not starting the countdown toward serious consequences – keeping #10, “thou shall not covet,” seems to be the entry level sin that usually leads to sinning against others (#6 through #9) and eventually sinning against God Himself (#1 through #4). Frequently when someone wants something so bad he or she is truly ready to do nearly anything to get it (coveting), it isn't long until lying (#9), stealing (#8), immoral behavior (#7), seeking to hurt or kill (#6) and rebellion against authority (#5) follows. And then, eventually neglect of the Lord's Day (#4), swearing vows in God's Name (#3), idol worship of the thing desired (#2) and making oneself god (#1) finishes the countdown to God's judgment and punishment.

Coveting is the entry level sin:

“You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

Scripture says *coveting* keeps a person out of heaven (*Romans 1:29, 1 Corinthians 6:10, Ephesians 5:5, Colossians 3:5, 1 Timothy 6:6-10*). Apostle Paul said that *coveting* frustrated his walk with the Lord (*Romans 7:7*).

It is a reason someone cannot be a church leader (*1 Timothy 3:3,6; Titus 1:7*).

Matthew 13:22 compares a covetous heart to land that is overgrown and ensnared with thorns of *deceitfulness of riches*.

This love of things led Judas to betrayal for 30 pieces of silver, Demas to desert the ministry for this world (*2 Timothy 4: 9-10*), and the Church at Laodicea to love opulence instead of the Lord (*Revelation 3:17-21*). All false teachers of the last days thrive on promoting covetousness in the world (*2 Peter 2:14*).

The first *church split* happened in heaven when Lucifer coveted a higher position in heaven. The first couple, Adam and Eve, lost it all for a bit of fruit in Eden.

Coveting doesn't seem too dangerous until it is understood as discontent with what God has provided and the devil's doorway exit from the straight and narrow way leading to life, onto the broad way that leads to destruction.

Christ's Clues for Treasure Hunters
(Where Do You Store Up the Desires of Your Heart?)
Luke 12:21-34

As Jesus was speaking to the twelve disciples and others who had gathered to hear His confrontation of the religious leaders that were criticizing Him. A voice from the crowd blurted out an unrelated demand that Jesus settle an inheritance dispute between him and his brother. Christ, not directly answering the man, told the parable of 'the rich fool' about the danger of coveting material things to the neglect of being generous toward God. The Lord then reiterated teaching He had preached previously in 'the Sermon on the Mount' at the beginning of His public ministry in Galilee (Matthew 6:24-34)...

A Bird's Eye View of Life

*"Then (Jesus) said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, **do not worry about your life**, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. **Life is more than food and the body is more than clothing**. **Consider the ravens**; they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than birds? And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest?"*

12:22-26

A Field Flower's View of Faith

*"Consider the lilies, **how they grow**: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, **even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these**. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, **how much more will He clothe you O you of little faith?**"*

12:27-28

The King's View of the Heart

*"And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, **nor have an anxious mind**. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. **But seek the kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you.**"*

12:29-31

*"Do not fear, little flock, for **it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom**. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. **For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.**"*

12:32-